

## Message Text

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APPROVED BY: EUR/EE - MR. BROWN

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R 151745Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

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FOR AMBASSADOR SHERER

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 110924 SENT PRAGUE DATED MAY 13.

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, EFIN, ETRN, CZ, US

SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL CALL ON DEPUTY SECRETARY

1. CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR SPACIL PAID FAREWELL CALL ON DEPUTY SECRETARY ON MAY 9.

2. DEPUTY SECRETARY NOTED THAT DURING AMBASSADOR'S TOUR IN WASHINGTON BILATERAL RELATIONS HAD BEGUN TO IMPROVE. HOWEVER, PASSAGE OF TRADE ACT HAD BEEN A SETBACK. HE HOPED WE COULD RESOLVE CLAIMS PROBLEM IN THE FUTURE BUT STRESSED THAT WE WOULD NEED TIME TO GET A REEVALUATION FROM THE CLAIMANTS AND INTERESTED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ABOUT WHAT IS POSSIBLE IN WAY OF A SETTLEMENT. HE HAD HOPED THAT WE COULD HAVE MOVED

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FASTER IN THIS REGARD.

3. SPACIL SAID THAT CZECHOSLOVAKS STAND READY TO CONSIDER ANY REASONABLE PROPOSAL. WITH RESPECT TO TRADE ACT, THERE WERE TWO PROBLEMS: (1) POLITICAL CONDITIONS SET FORTH IN TITLE IV, WHICH WERE UNACCEPTABLE TO GOC, AND (2) SPECIFIC AMENDMENT CONCERNING CLAIMS AND GOLD. HE HOPED THAT LATTER PROVISION WOULD BE REVISED.

4. DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID HE TOO HOPED THIS WOULD BE

POSSIBLE, ALTHOUGH TIMING WAS UNCERTAIN. HE ADDED THAT INITIAL CZECHOSLOVAK DISAPPOINTMENT OVER CLAIMS QUESTION WAS UNDERSTANDABLE, BUT THAT WE SHOULD NOW PROCEED WITH OPENING OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL IN BRATISLAVA AND WITH RATIFICATION OF THE CONSULAR CONVENTION. MOVEMENT ON THESE ISSUES WOULD HELP TO FURTHER RELATIONS.

5. SPACIL SAID HE WOULD CONVEY THIS MESSAGE TO PRAGUE. HE REMARKED, HOWEVER, THAT ONE OBJECTIVE OF CONSULATE IN BRATISLAVA WAS TO PROMOTE TRADE. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, THIS WOULD BE DIFFICULT. DEPUTY SECRETARY NOTED THAT, DESPITE LACK OF MFN, TRADE HAD INCREASED. HE LOOKED FOR TREND TO CONTINUE.

6. SPACIL AGREED THAT TRADE WAS DEVELOPING FAVORABLY. UNFORTUNATELY, BECAUSE OF TRADE ACT BOTH SIDES WERE NOW UNDER SOME RESTRAINT. WITHOUT BEING SPECIFIC, HE SAID THAT A POSITIVE ACT ON OUR PART WOULD BRING FORTH POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM CZECHOSLOVAK SIDE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ATMOSPHERE COULD WORSEN, FOR EXAMPLE, IF INTER-CARRIER TALKS BETWEEN PAN AMERICAN AND CSA SHOULD BREAK DOWN FOR SOME REASON. DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID IT WAS TOO EARLY TO FORECAST THE OUTCOME OF THESE DISCUSSIONS. SPACILACKNOWLEDGED THIS WAS PRIMARILY A TECHNICAL ISSUE, BUT, AS WITH CLAIMS QUESTION, A POLITICAL SOLUTION MAY BE NECESSARY.

7. SPACIL SAID THAT CZECHOSLOVAKS HAD BEEN PLEASED WITH VISIT BY CODEL BINGHAM. DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID THAT SUCH EXCHANGES CONTRIBUTE TO MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND THAT WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE MORE OF THEM. SPACIL ADDED THAT CZECHOLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SLOVAK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DELEGATION WILL VISIT US IN NOVEMBER TO CONCLUDE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH US CHAMBER. HE EXPECTED THAT A SENIOR GOC TRADE OFFICIAL WOULD ACCOMPANY DELEGATION.

8. SPACIL AGAIN REFERRED TO UPWARD TREND IN RELATIONS NOTING THAT US FOREIGN POLICY REPORT FOR 1971 HAD DEVOTED ONLY ONE RATHER CRITICAL PARAGRAPH TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THINGS WERE BETTER NOW. FINALLY, SPACIL OFFERED THE PURELY  
PERSONAL SUGGESTION THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO OUR  
RELATIONS IF A SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SUCH AS THE  
SECRETARY OR DEPUTY SECRETARY COULD VISIT PRAGUE.

9. DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID THAT AMBASSADOR DESERVED MUCH  
OF THE CREDIT FOR THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND EXPRESSED  
CONFIDENCE THAT HIS EFFORTS WILL EVENTUALLY BEAR FRUIT. KISSINGER  
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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